

Eight hundred families in Wabash, Ind., were left without fuel during the prevalence of a blizzard with the thermometer near zero all day, on the 19th, by the bursting of a gas main leading to the gas field.

News from Australia says that during the first two weeks of January the heat in New South Wales broke the record, the mercury running up as high as 123 degrees. Many deaths resulted and crops were cooked in the fields.

William E. Grif, the evangelist of Doylestown, Pa., recently closed a two weeks' series of revival meetings at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. Fifty thousand people attended. Somewhat more than 1,000 of his hearers were converted.

A British blue book just issued has a tabulated report from the embassies of the six powers showing that the total number of persons massacred in Armenia, concerning whose fate accurate information has been obtained, is 25,000.

By the burning of a large factory building in Troy, N. Y., on the 17th, a number of employees, thought by some to be at least 30, mostly young girls, perished in the flames or were killed by jumping from fifth-story windows to the pavement.

The urgent deficiency appropriation bill, as agreed to by the conference committee of the two houses of congress, appropriates \$6,305,436, or about \$2,000,000 more than the house bill, and \$240,000 more than the bill as it passed the senate provided for.

A company of Alsatians belonging to the Sixty-ninth Infantry, in the garrison at Treves, Rhenish Prussia, deserted in a body, on the 19th, and marched across the frontier into France. They were disarmed, but were allowed their freedom.

It was reported in Constantinople, on the 16th, that Russia alone objected to the United States having a dispatch boat there. Hon. A. W. Tamm, American minister, had referred the matter to Washington for settlement with the government at St. Petersburg.

The fifth annual congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution began its sessions in Washington city, on the 18th, behind closed doors. There was a large attendance of bright-faced, intelligent ladies present from nearly every state in the Union.

A dispatch from Shanghai, on the 20th, said it was believed there that Russia intends to establish a protectorate over Korea, and that Japan and the United States will strenuously resist such action. In the meantime the Japanese are making active preparations in their navy.

The porte agreed, on the 17th, to comply with the request made by United States Minister Merrill to suspend action in the case of Mr. Knapp, the American missionary whose arrest upon charges of sedition was recently attempted at Bitlis, until Mr. Knapp arrives in Constantinople.

A delegation of mining men from Colorado arrived in New York city, on the 19th, to attend the opening of New York's first mining exchange. The party was accompanied by a bullion car laden with exhibits from the Cripple Creek country, and containing bullion to the value of \$200,000.

Judge Valiant, of St. Louis, decided the famous Post-Dispatch injunction case on the 17th. The injunction is made permanent, and gives Col. C. H. Jones absolute control of the Post-Dispatch newspaper during the life of his contract with Mr. Pulitzer, which runs four years longer.

The committee of the New York legislature which has investigated the greater New York question reported, on the 20th, in favor of the consolidation of New York, Brooklyn and Long Island City, and suggested a commission to prepare a charter. The consolidation is to take effect January 1, 1898.

The house committee on territories, on the 19th, reconsidered the action taken at the last meeting of the committee by which a motion to report the Arizona statehood bill was defeated by a vote of six to five, which leaves the bill without prejudice and in the same position it occupied before action was taken.

President Porter of the Traders' national bank of Scranton, Pa., swore out a warrant before United States Commissioner Colburn, on the 20th, for the arrest of A. B. Williams, late cashier of the bank, charging him with embezzling \$26,000 of the institution's funds. Williams was taken into custody and held for a hearing.

The senate committee on immigration, on the 18th, reported a bill providing for the literacy test, under which immigrants who can not read and write a portion of the constitution at the United States, printed in their own language, will be refused admission at the expense of the steamship or railroad company responsible for their presence.

It was semi-officially reported, on the 18th, that the state department was in correspondence with the British foreign office looking to the appointment of a joint commission to investigate all the conditions connected with the seal industry in Behring sea, and to consider and report what further regulations are necessary for the preservation of the seals.

President Diaz of Mexico, has tendered the friendly offices of his government to bring about a renewal of diplomatic relations between Great Britain and Venezuela, and particularly to settle what is known as the Yucatan question.

CURRENT TOPICS.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

LIV. CONGRESS.

(First Session.)
The senate was in session on the 15th. In the house, the agricultural appropriation bill being under consideration, several members, chiefly democrats, made scathing attacks upon the secretary of the section, department for his refusal to execute the purpose of congress to distribute seed among the farmers of the country. Several of the speakers included Comptroller Bowler in their denunciations, and demanded that the lines defining the duties of the executive department of the government be more closely drawn. Senate amendments to several house bills were concurred in.

In the senate, on the 17th, the committee on privileges and elections reported in favor of Mr. Dupont, of Delaware. Mr. Hoar offered a memorial making the 9th of June a national day in commemoration of the first signing of the North American coast by John and Sebastian Cabot in 1497. Mr. Davis spoke for an hour and a half in support of the Moore doctrine. The memorial bill was then taken up. In the house consideration of the agricultural bill and the attack upon Secretary Morton were continued. Several amendments were agreed to, and when the house adjourned the pending question was an amendment to the bill providing for the purchase and distribution of seed.

In the senate, on the 18th, the military academy bill was considered three hours and passed. The pension appropriation bill was also taken up and passed in the house. The agricultural appropriation bill was, after a three days' debate, finally disposed of. Amendments incorporated in the bill make it mandatory upon the secretary to purchase and distribute seed, and the appropriation for seed was increased from \$100,000 to \$150,000. The Indian appropriation bill was reported from committee, and the executive, legislative and judicial appropriation bill was ordered filed in the clerk.

In the senate, on the 19th, the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill was passed and the conference report on the urgent deficiency bill was agreed to. The remainder of the session was spent in the passage of private pension bills. In the house the bill to extend for four years the limitation of the right of the Cuban insurgents and the alternative resolution for the recognition of Cuban independence were considered. The bill was passed by a vote of 150 to 100.

In the senate, on the 20th, the session was occupied with a discussion of the resolution for recognition of the Cuban insurgents. The Cuban insurgents and the alternative resolution for the recognition of Cuban independence were considered. The bill was passed by a vote of 150 to 100.

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In the senate, on the 24th, the session was occupied with a discussion of the resolution for recognition of the Cuban insurgents. The Cuban insurgents and the alternative resolution for the recognition of Cuban independence were considered. The bill was passed by a vote of 150 to 100.

In the senate, on the 25th, the session was occupied with a discussion of the resolution for recognition of the Cuban insurgents. The Cuban insurgents and the alternative resolution for the recognition of Cuban independence were considered. The bill was passed by a vote of 150 to 100.

In the senate, on the 26th, the session was occupied with a discussion of the resolution for recognition of the Cuban insurgents. The Cuban insurgents and the alternative resolution for the recognition of Cuban independence were considered. The bill was passed by a vote of 150 to 100.

In the senate, on the 27th, the session was occupied with a discussion of the resolution for recognition of the Cuban insurgents. The Cuban insurgents and the alternative resolution for the recognition of Cuban independence were considered. The bill was passed by a vote of 150 to 100.

In the senate, on the 28th, the session was occupied with a discussion of the resolution for recognition of the Cuban insurgents. The Cuban insurgents and the alternative resolution for the recognition of Cuban independence were considered. The bill was passed by a vote of 150 to 100.

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In the senate, on the 30th, the session was occupied with a discussion of the resolution for recognition of the Cuban insurgents. The Cuban insurgents and the alternative resolution for the recognition of Cuban independence were considered. The bill was passed by a vote of 150 to 100.

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Out of work, out of money and served with a dispossession, notice, James McCarthine, a New York bartender, shot himself through the head, in his apartment, on the 18th, while standing with his wife's arms around his neck. Their six children were asleep in the next room at the time.

Besides the sum of \$9,500,000 which will be asked by the British admiralty for the construction of four battle ships, four first-class cruisers, four third-class cruisers and 60 torpedo destroyers, the government will ask parliament for a large sum for guns and men.

A joint resolution to revive the grade of lieutenant-general of the United States army was introduced in the senate, on the 19th, by Mr. Elkins, of West Virginia, and referred to the committee on military affairs.

The board of inquiry that investigated the grounding of the steamship St. Paul exonerated Capt. Jamieson of any culpability in the matter.

The vote on the Arizona statehood bill has been reconsidered in the house committee on territories, and it is now stands unprejudiced, as it did before the vote sidetracking it was taken.

The pardon of ex-United States Consul Waller, a prisoner in France on conviction of treason in Madagascar, was sent to President Faure, on the 19th, for signature.

The young king of Corea has arrived at St. Petersburg with the object of seeking the protection of Russia for his country.

A dispatch from Havana says that 30 days is the limit which Gen. Weyler has set for the wiping out of the revolution. He promised a delegation of sugar planters that by March 15 the country would be cleared of the insurgents.

Two city of Guthrie, Okla., retains title to Noble park, containing almost 18 acres, in West Guthrie, by a decision rendered by Secretary Smith, affirming a lower ruling.

A fire occurred during a masked ball at San Tarem, Portugal, and in the ensuing panic many lives were lost. Forty dead bodies were recovered.

T. J. Laxson, a wealthy farmer, was found murdered in his house at Fall Leaf, Kas., on the 19th. The murderers literally chopped the old man to pieces. They left no clew.

The grand lodge of Kansas has decided to establish a Masonic home in that state. The location has not been fixed.

President Cleveland in denying a pardon, on the 20th, to F. M. O. Holston, convicted of forgery in a pension case, said he was decidedly in favor of strict punishment "in a case like this which involves the swindling of the poor and needy veteran and prostitution of the benevolent intentions of the government as embodied in its pension law."

An expedition bound for the interior of Labrador will leave Philadelphia, in June, for the purpose of studying the Esquimaux and collecting specimens of the flora and fauna of that region. Prof. Frank Russell, curator of the University of Iowa, will accompany the expedition as archeologist.

On the 20th the president signed the act to extend the mineral land laws of the United States to lands embraced in the north half of the Colville Indian reservation.

The secretary of the interior, on the 20th, approved school indemnity selections embracing 15,735 acres of land inuring to the state of Minnesota, situated in the Marshall, St. Cloud and Duluth land districts.

The senate was in session on the 21st. In the house senate amendments to the military academy appropriation bill were agreed to, and the following senate bills were passed: To amend section 5294, Revised Statutes, so as to empower the secretary of the treasury to remit or mitigate forfeitures under his jurisdiction as well as fines and penalties, and to amend the law regulating the establishing of final proof in timber culture entries. In committee of the whole the Indian appropriation bill was further considered. An evening session was held for the consideration of private pension bills, and the house adjourned to the 24th.

John L. Waller, ex-United States consul at Madagascar, who was court-martialed and sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment under conviction of having illegally communicated with the Hovas, arrived at Paris, on the 21st, having been pardoned and released from Nimes prison the day previous.

MISSOURI STATE NEWS.

Of Interest to Wheat Growers.
The Missouri Agricultural college has issued a bulletin of much value to all interested in wheat.

It gives the results of the experiments made by the college for a number of years. The summary of results reads as follows: The varieties producing the highest yield for four or more years were as follows, and in the order named: Falls, extra early red, Currier's profile, Hindocston, Jones winter six, America bronze and Missouri blue stem, all of which had an average yield of more than 30 bushels per acre.

The varieties producing the highest average yield for three years were as follows, and in the order named: Warren's favorite, Everitt's high grade, Michigan amber, red challenge and hybrid Mediterranean, all of which gave an average yield of more than 32 bushels.

The varieties producing the highest yield for one year only were: Extra early Oakley, Corral and Democrat, all of which had an average yield above 30 bushels.

The yield and quality of a crop of wheat may be increased by the use of superior seed. An increased yield over the average of the same variety grown separately. While the tests were made on different plots of ground each year, the soil did not vary in character and extent, being an upland limestone clay loam of average fertility.

Of Interest to Teachers.
The teachers' course in the state university, Columbia, will begin April 1 and extend to June.

This is free of charge to all teachers of the public schools in the state. The following lines of studies will be included this year: Science and the art of education, educational psychology, English language, literature, mathematics, physiology and hygiene, physical geography and drawing.

A Justice in Trouble.
Justice of the Peace Z. W. Mosby, of Boone, Pike county, was arraigned before United States Commissioner Moore, at Hannibal, on the charge of sending a postal card through the mails, addressed to Mrs. Sarah A. Smith, of Cyrene, Pike county, threatening to have her son arrested if he did not settle a certain matter. He furnished bond.

Robberies at Pierce City.
There seems to be an epidemic of robberies at Pierce City. John Hunter, a well-known farmer, was knocked down and robbed in the suburbs. Later F. J. Dunn, a retired merchant, was shot and robbed in the city. A third robbery, at Priestart, was committed while driving out of town and shot in the head. He was robbed of \$80, which had been paid him on a money order. He was not dangerously wounded.

Population of the Penitentiary.
The number of convicts at the penitentiary, February 19, showed 2,239. This figure was one less than there was in the history of the institution. That was June 30, 1895, when there was exactly the same number. The prison officials expect an increase until probably next June, and it may amount to from 150 to 200 additional convicts in excess of those discharged.

The Kansas City Times.
Receiver Wiley O. Cox bought in the property of the Kansas City Times Newspaper Co., which was sold under the action of the receiver, for \$25,000. The company is \$200,000. Mr. Cox, who is a prominent banker, will run the property for himself personally.

The First Rope Broke.
The first rope used in hanging James Fitzgerald, in St. Louis, broke, and after being revived at the morgue, he was carried to the scaffold and executed. Fitzgerald was charged with killing his sweetheart, Anna Nielsen. He protested his innocence.

A Gifted Orator Drops Dead.
Dr. Wm. H. Folmsbee dropped dead on a street in Gallatin from paralysis of the heart. He was 63, and one of the pioneers of Daviess county, and quite well known throughout north-west Missouri as a gifted orator.

An Old Resident of Farmington.
Mrs. Evelyn Beal died at Farmington, of pneumonia, where she had been a resident since 1850. She was the widow of I. G. Beal, formerly one of the foremost lawyers of southeast Missouri.

Shot Her Lover Then Herself.
Barbara Kastl, aged 17, shot her lover, John Rohlfing, aged 20, and then killed herself, in a room 314 Olive street, St. Louis, and when discovered, they were both dead. It was a case of a woman scorned.

A Covetous Auditorium.
The Business Men's league of St. Louis, who are erecting an auditorium on a site just south of the new city hall, in which the republican national convention will be held.

Charged With Counterfeiting.
John W. Smith, of Princeton, Mercer county, has been taken to St. Joseph and locked up on the charge of making and passing counterfeit dollars. He says he is innocent.

His Wound Proved Fatal.
Charles Jackson, a negro who played "Peeping Tom" at Fayette, and who was shot in the month of September, died the other day from the effects of the wound.

Alleged Murderer Escapes.
William B. Emerson, who was in jail at Osceola for killing the Ray, made his escape the day. It is believed that he was furnished a key from the outside.

For Working on Sunday.
The proprietor of a St. Louis barber shop was fined \$25 and costs for working on Sunday under the old Sunday law. The case will be appealed.

Reached a Good Age.
Mrs. Lucinda Kennedy died, the other night, at her home, in Barry county. She was born near West Port, Ky., December 16, 1792.

Fifty Years a Church Member.
Mrs. Martha Lockridge, a native of Howard county, aged 73, died the other day. She was a member of the Christian church for 50 years.

DUN'S TRADE REVIEW.

The Restoration of the Treasury Reserve and the Rise in Bonds Throughout Public Confidence Without Any Apparent Disposition to Expand Credit.—Prices of Commodities as a Whole at the Lowest Average Ever Known.

New York, Feb. 22.—Dun & Co. in their weekly review of trade this morning say:

Liabilities in failures during the first two weeks of February were \$7,650,393, against \$5,530,995 last year. Manufacturing liabilities were \$3,163,986, against \$1,592,319 last year, while trading were \$3,842,053, against \$3,353,019 last year. Failures for the week have been 280 in the United States against 322 last year, and 66 in Canada against 26 last year.

The restoration of the treasury reserve has been effected with remarkably little monetary disturbance. The rapid rise in the price of bonds strengthens public confidence. Prompt action in the house on the silver bill has helped to increase foreign confidence in American securities. In no complete branch of business is there yet apparent much disposition to expand. Prices of commodities as a whole are now at the lowest average ever known, though only one-half of one per cent. below the average of September 3, 1895.

Receipts of wheat continue heavy and depress prices, February delivery to 72½, although what is nominally called a cash price is 7½ cents higher. Corn is one cent lower for cash, western receipts having been large. Cotton again declined a quarter cent, with large realizing, reported sales aggregating a million bales for the week. Speculative estimates are persistently repeated, but receipts do not favor them, nor is actual consumption encouraging as declining prices of goods show.

In almost all manufactured products decline continues, though in some classes quotations are so irregular that the change cannot be accurately measured. Bessemer pig iron and grey forged are a shade lower at Pittsburgh, and structural beams and products are comparatively small, and some furnaces in that region have been banked.

Textile manufacturers fall as yet to meet the demand expected and prices are generally weak, open reductions averaging two per cent. for cotton goods, and since January 1, about nine per cent. Dress goods and blankets are in fair demand, but men's wools are inactive, and actual transactions are in many cases five to ten cents below open quotations. Sales of wool for the week were 30 per cent. smaller than last year. Prices do not decline, as the foreign market remains strong.

The volume of domestic trade reflected by clearings is 37.7 per cent. larger than last year. Railroad earnings in February thus far are 13.6 per cent. larger than last year. Stocks weakened until Thursday, but then advanced and closed about eighteen cents per share higher for railroads.

Exports of products in two weeks of February have been seven per cent. larger than last year, with prospects of increase in grain, though cotton bills are growing fewer. The imports no longer show the increase formerly observed, but for two weeks have been 18.5 per cent. larger than last year.

TEN THOUSAND SOLDIERS

To Be Sent to Abyssinia to Reinforce the Italian Army There.

Rome, Feb. 23.—The minister of war has received the report of Gen. Barattieri, commanding the Italian forces in Abyssinia, in regard to the recent combats between the Italians and the rebel bands near Adigrat. In these fights the Italians lost 97 killed and from thirty to forty wounded, and the enemy's losses were about equal to those of the Italians.

The report was laid before the cabinet, which, presided by the minister, Sig. Crispien, to send to Abyssinia immediately whatever reinforcements may be necessary. Ten thousand men are already in readiness to be embarked for Massowah to join Gen. Barattieri's forces in the interior.

ADJUDGED INSANE.

Ex-Alderman Salo W. Roth, the Defaulter, Committed to an Asylum.

CHICAGO, Feb. 22.—Ex-Alderman Salo W. Roth, who, as secretary of two building and loan associations, is responsible for a shortage of \$3,000 in the funds, was adjudged insane yesterday by a jury in the county court and ordered by the judge committed to the asylum at Waukegan, Wis. This judicial disposition of the case precludes a criminal prosecution for the delinquency, but the associations will endeavor to recover the loss from the estate, which is estimated at less than fifty thousand dollars. The evidence showed that Roth had been suffering from melancholia more than three years.

A Bill to Abolish the Fee System and Substitute Salaries.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The house committee on the judiciary yesterday agreed on a bill to abolish the fee system of the United States district attorneys and marshals and substitute salaries. Under it no salary or compensation of any officer will be increased beyond the amount paid under existing law.

VENEZUELAN COMMISSION

Engaged in Studying Papers Bearing on the Controversy.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The Venezuelan Commission held no formal meeting yesterday on account of the absence from the city of Mr. Conzatti and Prof. Gilman, but Justice Brewer and Alvey and Dr. White were in consultation at the commission's office with the geographical expert and as upon other days of the past two weeks were engaged in studying the papers bearing on the controversy which have accumulated in vast proportions.

THE MAIN OBSTACLE

To the Recognition of Cuban Belligerency Remained by the Spanish Government.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The Cuban correspondence which, in printed form, reached congress Thursday, contains some interesting discussion in regard to the protection of the property of American citizens in Cuba. The Sole Agent, Receiver from Spain for Damages to Their Property by the War on the Island of Cuba.

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WALLER'S RELEASE.

The Ex-Spanish Consul General at Madagascar, Who Was Court-Martialed and Sentenced to 20 Years' Imprisonment for Alleged Communication with the Hovas, Arrived at Paris at 9 a. m., having been pardoned and released from Nimes prison.

PARIS, Feb. 21.—John L. Waller, the United States consul at Madagascar, who was court-martialed and sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment for alleged communication with the Hovas, arrived at Paris at 9 a. m., having been pardoned and released from Nimes prison.

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